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Plague and cholera.

BRITISH INDIA.—In Calcutta during the period from January 26 to February 1, 47 persons died of cholera. During the same period there were registered 85 plague cases and 82 deaths.

Respectfully,

FRANK H. MASON,
United States Consul-General.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Communications from the German protectorates' report upon the occurrence of frambœsia and ringworm in the Marshall Islands and in Nauru.—By government physician, Dr. Bartels.

[Synopsised translation from the publications of imperial health office at Berlin.]

I. *Frambœsia.*

BERLIN, GERMANY, *March 14, 1902.*

Frambœsia has long been known among the inhabitants of the Marshall Islands and Nauru, and is called by the natives "ruk." It is generally regarded as a harmless disease, which everyone must have as a child, otherwise he will get it later. Old people, who were spoken to on the subject, were of the opinion that the disease has always occurred in the islands. In any case it was not taken there, like syphilis, by white people. In spite of this opinion, however, it is reasonable to assume that frambœsia was originally introduced into the Marshall Islands from outside, as has recently been proved to be the case in the island of Nauru. I was assured by reliable white traders that twenty years ago, at the time of their settlement in Nauru, frambœsia was unknown there. About fifteen years ago a Nauru half-blood was driven in a canoe from Nauru and drifted to the island Banaba. The natives gave him a friendly reception, and, according to the usage in the South Seas, he was adopted by a married couple as their son. When, after a long period, he found an opportunity to return on a whaler to his home, he was accompanied by his adopted parents and their 5-year old daughter to Nauru. This girl was called Goia and suffered with frambœsia. A few weeks after the arrival of the Banaba people in Nauru, children who had played with the little foreign girl, and also adults, began to suffer with the same sickness. At that time several hundred of the inhabitants fell sick, and since then the disease has never died out in Nauru. The name of the child Goia was provided with the feminine prefix E of the Nauru language and was used to designate the disease, which is called "egoia."

In the neighboring English Gilbert Islands, frambœsia also occurs and is there called "turugu." In the Caroline Islands it is called "pinglap." In Ponape it is named "kijinkinj," and in Yap "malat." In Samoa it is known as "lupangi."

Frambœsia occurs in a much more violent form among the inhabitants of Nauru than among the population of the Marshall Islands. In Nauru frambœsia is by no means a harmless children's disease, and among the patients persons of all ages are to be found. Dr. Bartels says: "In one case I found a 40 year-old man, whose entire body was covered with scabs. I counted 70 on his back alone." Some of the patients complained of violent pains in the muscles and limbs, which prevented them from sleeping. In some cases the disease is accompanied with intense weakness which prevents the patient from walking for

several months. The sickness lasts about six months generally, seldom longer. The eruptions generally occur between the toes and fingers, on the back, at the corners of the mouth, the nose, etc.

II. Ringworm (*Tinea imbricata*).

Ringworm is very general in the Marshall Islands, where as many as 10 per cent of the population may be said to suffer with it. As it does not affect the general health and is troublesome only through the irritation which it causes, the natives did nothing to heal it formerly. They are now using an ointment made of sulphur and cocoanut oil. The inhabitants call the disease "gogo." In the island of Yap it is called "fatafat," and in Ponape it is known as "kilinwai." In the Gilbert Islands it is called "tukunekune," and the natives named it "etemaue" in Nauru.

Another skin disease prevalent among the natives of the Marshall Islands is called by the inhabitants "djenn." With this disease, spots are found on the face, neck, and breast.

FRANK H. MASON,
United States Consul-General.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

Treatment of vessels from Sydney on account of plague.

HONOLULU, H. I., March 7, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that on account of the recent appearance of bubonic plague at Sydney, New South Wales, all vessels entering here from that port will be ordered to the channel wharf and handled under our immediate supervision. The usual regulations for ports infected with plague as to disinfection of baggage and freight and the bathing of passengers will be enforced. I have forwarded through the agents of both of the passenger lines full instructions concerning the conduct of their vessels and the inspection of passengers while at Sydney, and have insisted that all precautions claimed to have been taken must be duly certified to by the United States consul. With these vessels at the channel wharf, capable, as the latter is, of being completely isolated from the shore in less than five minutes, there is very little danger from escaping rats. With the quick method of handling a vessel at this wharf the incoming and outgoing work can be performed in a very short time.

Respectfully,

L. E. COFER,
*Passed Assistant-Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,
Chief Quarantine Officer, Hawaii.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Confirming reports of deaths from plague.

HONOLULU, H. I., March 7, 1902.

SIR: Referring to my telegrams of February 24 and March 3, 1902, concerning new cases of plague at Honolulu, I have the honor to report as follows:

The first death on February 17 occurred in the case of a pupil (a native girl) in the Kawaiahao seminary, which latter is located on King